

TO: KHS Parents & Ohana, Guardians, Friends (11/14/2025)

KALANI High School

Where the Winds of Knowledge Carry You to a Brighter Future

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

IMPORTANT DATES...

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Thursday, November 27 | Thanksgiving |
| 2) Friday, November 28 | No School |
| 3) Friday, December 19 | End of 1 st Semester |
| 4) Thursday, December 25 | Christmas |
| 5) Monday, January 5 | No Students – Teacher Work Day |
| 6) Monday, January 19 | Holiday – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| 7) Monday, February 16 | Holiday – Presidents’ Day |
| 8) Friday, March 13 | End of 3 rd Quarter |
| 9) Sunday, March 15 | Junior Prom – Koolau Ballroom |
| 10) Thursday, March 26 | Holiday – Kuhio Day |
| 11) Friday, April 3 | Holiday – Good Friday |
| 12) Wednesday, May 20 | Graduation at the Stan Sherrif Center - confirmed |
| 13) Monday, May 25 | Holiday – Memorial Day |
| 14) Thursday, May 28 | Last Day for Students – End of 2 nd Semester |
| 15) Friday, May 29 | Last Day for Teachers |
- December 22 – January 2 : Winter Break
March 16 – 20 : Spring Break

Email address ----- mitchell.otani@k12.hi.us

Vision: Character. Compassion. Community.

Mission : We at Kalani High School create opportunities to discover our passions, purpose, and personal pursuits. A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more.

Ne'epapa: Stronger Together

Kindness 101 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MPVjyv2vDM>

Congratulations

HHSAA - Girls Bowling

HHSAA Champion – Christina Kidd

Team – HHSAA Runner-up

1 st Place – Christina Kidd	5 th Place – Kaori Shimamoto	7 th Place – Peyton Fujiwara
Gabby Yasumura	Jessica Lee	Hunter Yamamoto Tien Saiki

Boys – 13th Place – Joshua Mau



Congratulations

2025-2026 MTNA Performance Competitions

Hawai'i State Division

Junior Performance (strings) : Hawai'i State Winner: Evangeline Tjoeng

Junior Performance (woodwinds) : Alternate: Desmond Sutton

Senior Performance (Woodwinds) : Alternate: Zhi Yi Chen, student of Aileen Kawakami

Congratulations

Center for Tomorrow's Leaders

Mia Nishiguchi

The Center for Tomorrow's Leaders (CTL) Fellows program is a year-long leadership program for high school seniors in Hawai'i that aims to develop character, critical thinking, and community stewardship. Fellows participate in a curriculum based on [The Leadership Challenge](#), work on hands-on community projects, and connect with established leaders to tackle important local issues. Mia was selected as one of the Class of 2026 Fellows

Discover UH Mānoa

Visit our campus, tour the facilities, engage with our faculty and staff, meet current students, experience campus tours, and so much more! From our academic programs to research discoveries and opportunities, and student services – there is something for everyone!

General Information

Saturday, November 15, 2025

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Free parking

Location : Legacy Pathway, Campus Center, Quad, Art Building Pathway, QLC, Varney Circle

For more information and registration information: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/discovermanoa/>

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!

KALANI BLOOD DRIVE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SCHEDULE AN APPT!

LOCATION: BEHIND THE GYM

7AM-2PM

24 NOVEMBER

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:
YJWANG12345@GMAIL.COM OR MAGLIDTKALEAS@GMAIL.COM

Chengdu Debate Challenge

The China (Chengdu) U.S. Sister Cities Youth Debate Challenge was launched in 2016 in an effort to enhance the friendship and partnership between Chengdu and its U.S. sister cities (Honolulu). Bryce Hara and Anson Li will be representing Kalani High School from November 17-24. Chaperone : Mr. Melemai

Kalani Marching Band

The award winning Kalani Falcon Marching Band will be participating in the following Marching Band Competitions

Kapolei : Excellent Rating

Kamehameha Tournament of Bands : Excellent Rating

Rainbow Invitational

November 11, 2025 4:30pm

Mililani High School Trojan Bandfest

November 15, 2025 6:00pm

Tutor.com:

Parents, please remind your sons/daughters that if they need help with ANY of their classes, help is available! Tutor.com is a free tutoring resource for all Kalani High School students! Students log in using their Clever credentials. Over 4,000 tutors are available to help in over 250 subjects, for FREE, 24/7. These tutors are LIVE PEOPLE! NOT Artificial Intelligence! There is also standardized test preparation assistance. See your counselor if you would like more information

STUDENT SECTION

Clubs / Sports

Laulea – Ms. Yagi
Anime Club – Ms. Miyashiro
Book Club – Ms. Miyashiro
Spanish Club – Ms. Rivette
Health Occupations Students of America – Mr. A. Kimura
Center for Tomorrow's Leader – Mr. Iwanaga
Ceramics Club – Ms. Berezni
Chinese Club – Ms. Young Chan
DECA – Ms. Potterton
The Health and Fitness Club – Mr. Melemai
LEO Club – connected with Lions Club (Ms. Kaneko / Mr. Lee):
Model United Nations Club – Mr. Melemai
Key Club – Ms. Takayesu
National Honor Society (NHS) – Dr. Ida
Computer Science/Technology and Service Club – Dr. Ida
Oahu Math League (OML) – Dr. Ida
FFA – Ms. Doran
Hawaii Aspiring Aerospace Engineers Academy – Ms. Sato
Japan Club – Ms. Klein
CORE Club – Ms. Kaaua

Mock Trial Team

2026 Hawai'i High School Mock Trial Competition.

Similar to last year, this year's competition will be conducted in-person. Competing in person allows students to build confidence, sharpen public speaking and critical thinking skills, and collaborate more effectively with teammates and legal mentors, all within the same environment in which attorneys practice daily. The courtroom setting also fosters deeper engagement, professionalism, and memorable learning experiences.

The competition will be held on Saturday(s), February 7, February 21, February 28, and March 7, 2026.

This year's competition will involve a civil case. See Mr. Bard

Traffic Safety

Just because you see them doesn't mean that they see you.

Be careful when crossing any street on or off campus. Oftentimes, parents are looking at their phone or waving to their child and they might not see you if you are crossing in front of their car.

Project Grad 2026

Kimber Kahanu- kalanipg25@gmail.com.

[KPG 2026 Parent Letter.pdf](#)

Sister School Partnerships – International Travel

Busan Computer Science High School – Korea
Koyo Senior High School – Hiroshima
Obihiro Hakuyo High School – Hokkaido
Iwakuni High School – Yamaguchi
Japan Super Science Fair – Ritsumeikan High School - Kyoto
Osaka Gakuin University / High School
Bihoku High School – Nagoya

Osaka Gakuin University Summer Bridge Program
Chengdu Debate Competition Jeju International Youth Forum
Hainan/Beijing Cultural Exchange Trip
Qinhuangdao / Beijing Cultural Trip

ASVAB

The ASVAB assessment (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a standardized test that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. The ASVAB will be offered at Kalani High School on November 19th from 8:00am-12:00pm (students are responsible for making up any missed classwork).

Testing is open to all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. If your child would like to participate in the ASVAB test, please have them contact Test Coordinator Jaime Edwards at jaime.edwards@k12.hi.us.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

SUMMER INTERNSHIP/OTHER EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs. Lisa Hayashi College and Career Counselor lisa.hayashi@k12.hi.us 808-305-0556

SCHEDULE A MEETING (Students only)

Visit our Kalani HS College & Career Site

Check our website for more information – <https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/kalanicounselorscorner/college-and-career>

Ongoing events:

Many colleges visit Kalani High School to share more information about their school. Please visit our ongoing calendar of visits. These visits are open to Kalani students only. <https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/kalanicounselorscorner/college-and-career/college-visits-presentations-meetings-slides?authuser=0>

College Admission Counselor Visits

During these meetings, you will meet the college admission counselor for Hawaii applicants, learn more about the school, programs and majors offered, the application procedures and requirements, and have a chance to ask questions. Students need to sign up using their SCOIR account. Open to Kalani students grades 9-11.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iz2tLh8e6InR8oa5Za8tLL0Z0q0G6xBqWR15wQnXCM/edit?usp=sharing>

FAFSA Financial Aid Webinars

Sign up for virtual webinars occurring every Wednesday through Hawaii P-20 to learn more about financial aid.

Open to all students and families. <https://collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com/Upcoming-Events/>

College Visits

Pick up an activity pass from the College and Career Center in the Library
Ask your teacher for approval (sign up for NO more than 3 visits for the same class period)

****Students who have off campus during a college visit do not need a pass to attend****

ATHLETICS

Congratulations

HHSAA Champion – *Christina Kidd*

HHSAA Runner-up : Girls Bowling

OIA Champions

Girls Junior Varsity Crosscountry

OIA Runner-up

Girls Air Riflery Boys Air Riflery Girls Bowling

OIA Eastern Division Champions

Girls Soft-Tennis Girls Air Riflery Girls Bowling Girls Junior Varsity Crosscountry

WINTER SPORTS PARENT MEETINGS

The DOE requires **at least one parent/guardian attend a Sports Parent Meeting once per school year.**

- If you attended a Parent Meeting in the fall, you do not need to attend another one.
- Some teams may hold a **team-specific breakout meeting** immediately after the Parent Meeting. Please confirm the schedule with your coach.

Meeting Dates (All at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria):

- **November 17:** Boys Basketball, Swimming & Diving, JV Baseball
- **November 24:** Wrestling

Soft-Tennis All Stars

Team : Eastern Division : Girls 1st Place OIA Championship : Girls 2nd Place
 1st Team All-Stars : Lexi Duldulao Sydney Lin Conner Lin Tyka Ching
 2nd Team All-Stars : Isabella Lee Haley Smith Jasmine Uyesono Breydi Nuibe
 Player of Year: Lexi Duldulao

SPORTS OFFERINGS 2025-26

JV = junior varsity, V = Varsity, B = Boys, G = Girls

FALL

B/G AIR RIFLE (V)
 B/G BOWLING (V)
 B/G CHEER (JV/V) SIDELINE/COMPETITION
 B/G CROSS-COUNTRY (JV/V)
 FOOTBALL (JV/V)
 G SOFTBALL (JV)
 B/G SOFT TENNIS (V)
 G VOLLEYBALL (JV/White/V)

WINTER

Boys BASEBALL (JV)
 B/G BASKETBALL (JV/V)
 B/G PADDLING (JV/V/COED)
 B/G SOCCER (JV/V)
 B/G SWIMMING & DIVING(JV/V)
 G TENNIS (JV)
 B/G WRESTLING (JV/V)

SPRING

BASEBALL (V)
 B/G GOLF (V)
 B/G JUDO (JV/V)
 G SOFTBALL (V)
 B/G TENNIS (V)
 B VOLLEYBALL (JV/V)
 G WATER POLO (V)
 G FLAG FOOTBALL (V)

WINTER SPORTS

SPORT	COACH	EMAIL
JV Baseball	Chase Sumida	vbaseball@kalanihs.org
Boys Basketball	George Weeks	bbasketball@kalanihs.org
Girls Basketball	Tyler Tsukazaki	gbasketball@kalanihs.org
Paddling	Keanu Sanford	paddling@kalanihs.org
Boys Soccer	Jaymes Barlos	bsoccer@kalanihs.org
Girls Soccer	Jillian Okamoto	gsoccer@kalanihs.org
Swimming & Diving	Sherri Ann Barret/Victoria Ruelas	Swimming@kalanihs.org
JV Girls Tennis	Shaun Miyata	vtennis@kalanihs.org
Wrestling	Racer Moody	wrestling@kalanihs.org

Department of Education requirements for athletic participation:

- Current Department of Education Athletic Physical
- Department of Education Consent and Assumption of Risk form per sport. (1 sport per form)
- Concussion Management Student Consent
- Need a physical? We encourage you to take your child to their regular doctor. Those who want a physical quicker please contact your nearby Urgent Care facility to inquire about walk-in physical appointments. (Fee may be charged). Don't forget to download and take the physical form with you.

Kalani High School requirements for athletic participation:

- Completion and submission of Athletic Registration (New to Kalani? Create a new account and remember your password. Returnees log in with their password.
- Sign up and try out for a team.
- Once selected to a team, student-athlete will pay the \$80.00 ASET Fee

Athletic Supply, Equipment & Transportation (ASET) \$80.00

Once your child has been selected to a team, parents will receive an email asking you to log into your child's account to pay the \$80.00 ASET fee. The amount of money allocated by the DOE for Athletic Transportation is much less than is needed considering the current cost of buses. This fee (pays for buses and other transportation costs) is charged once per school year regardless of the number of teams your child gets selected for.

The **ASET Fee** is charged once per school year for the first sport a student plays.

- If your child played a fall sport this year, you won't need to make any additional payment.
- Payment is made **online through GoFans** once your child is selected for a team.
- We no longer accept in-person payments.
- A small transaction fee applies.
- A payment link will be sent when it is time to pay.

Continuous Notice

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HSDOE) and its schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion in its programs and activities. Please direct inquiries regarding Department nondiscrimination policies as follows:

Civil Rights Compliance Branch
Hawaii State Department of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
(808) 586-3322 or relay
CRCB@k12.hi.us

Beth Schimmelfinnig, Director
Rhonda Wong, Compliance
Aaron Oandasan, Title VI
Toby Yamashiro, Title VII
Nicole Isa-Iijima, Title IX
Krysti Sukita, ADA/504

AHERA

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which mandated the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, 40 CFR Part 763. It requires all primary and secondary school buildings to be inspected by AHERA accredited inspectors and to identify all asbestos-containing building materials. The rule further requires the development of a management plan by an AHERA accredited management planner that is based on the findings of the inspection. The management plan outlines our intent in controlling the potential for exposure to asbestos fibers in our school. In February 2001, Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-502 was adopted by the Hawaii State Legislature. These rules essentially mirror the requirements of the AHERA regulations. In both cases, the rule requires our school to notify parents, teachers, and employees of the presence and status of asbestos containing material in our school buildings.

The initial inspection of our school was conducted in 1958 and identifies some asbestos-containing materials. Since that time, we continue to conduct periodic surveillance and triennial re-inspections to ensure that the asbestos-containing materials remain in good condition and do not pose a hazard to our students and staff. An asbestos management plan was drafted based on our initial inspection and submitted to the Hawaii State Department of Health. It outlines in detail the methods we will use to maintain the material in a safe manner. The management plan is updated regularly as asbestos is removed or conditions change. A copy of the management plan is on file in the administrative office and is available for your review during our regular school hours. Should you have any questions, please call the school at 808-305-0500.

Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Statement

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. This requirement extends to all of the Department's programs and activities, including employment and admissions as applicable. If you have difficulty understanding English, you have the right to receive language assistance at no cost to you. Please contact your school's principal for more information. For the Department high schools that offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study in arts and communications, business, health services, industrial and engineering technology, natural resources, and public and human services, there are no admission criteria. Department high schools will take steps to assure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in CTE programs and will provide equal access to designated youth groups. The Department does not tolerate acts of harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion is encouraged to report such harassment. Students and parents may report allegations of discrimination or harassment to the school's administrator or to the Department's Civil Rights Compliance Branch at the address listed below. The Department is committed to conducting prompt investigations. Support, including counseling and educational resources, will be available to students who are harassed as well as to students found to have engaged in acts of harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. Students found to have engaged in harassment may be disciplined up to and including suspension if circumstances warrant. Students, parents, and Department staff should work together to prevent harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. The Department will not tolerate retaliation for reporting discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion, and will take steps to protect those who wish to report the discrimination or harassment. Please direct inquiries regarding Department nondiscrimination policies to:

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Aaron Oandasan, Title VI
Toby Yamashiro, Title VII
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Krysti Sukita, ADA/504

Inquiries concerning discrimination and/or harassment may also be referred to the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

Archived

US News 2025 Best High Schools

Kalani High School is ranked first within Hawaii (non-charter public schools).
<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/hawaii>

Congratulations

National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist

Ivan Tse

On September 10, 2025, officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of the more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 71st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth \$26 million that will be offered next spring. In October 2024, Ivan took the PSAT/National Merit Qualifying Test and met the requirements to enter the 2026 NM Scholarship Program. He is one of 10 Hawaii public school students recognized.

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student

Bryce Hara Jayden Tran

On September 11, 2025, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation released the names of approximately 34,000 Commended Students based on a national selection score of 210. These students are also being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. *“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. These students are vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation, and we hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities.*

Model UN Conference

Punahou Competition

Best Delegate Winners: Ivan Tse Morgan Lenoir Ryder Goto

Outstanding Delegate Winners: Mirah Levine

Verbal Accommodation Winners: Leala Florendo David Summers Bryce Hara

David Lenoir

All-American Model United Nations Travel Team

Jeju International Youth Forum

The students participated in discussions involving a variety of topics to improve their respective countries.
Students proposed solutions to real-life problems.

Chaperone : Ms. Kaneko

Students : Tamar McMillan-Zilberman + Mirah Levine + Qian Chen + Jeannie Kim

Japan Super Science Fair

The fair aims to cultivate scientific thinking, promote learning across different subjects and cultures, and create friendships through curiosity and discovery.

Chaperones : Ms. Hamasaki and Mr. Okawa

Students : Rodrigo Del Carpio Sydnie Melemai Ivan Tse Sara Lau Miki Okata

Alumni in the News

Jill Takasaki Canfield (Class of 1984), Hawai'i Literacy executive director

What is the greatest hurdle to achieving wide literacy in Hawaii?

The greatest hurdle to achieving wide literacy in Hawaii is that low literacy can be invisible. You can't see it — until you engage. Low literacy is often silent, hidden behind polite nods, unfilled forms, or quiet avoidance. It affects every community yet remains unseen by most people — 50% of children from low-income, underserved communities start school two years behind their peers. Add to that: 1 in 6 adults in Hawaii struggle with reading and writing. These conditions create intergenerational cycles of low literacy, limited opportunity, and economic vulnerability. For many learners, literacy isn't just learning to decode text — it's navigating work, health, civic and digital demands in a rapidly changing world. When foundational skills aren't in place, it becomes much harder to catch up. This is not about intelligence or effort — it's about access, timing, and support. The key is showing up and meeting learners where they are with respect, and belief in their potential and compassion because we all need help in some way.

How do Hawaii's literacy rates compare to other regions, and do these correlations matter?

Nationally, 21% of adults struggle with basic reading tasks. In Hawaii, that figure is 16.7% or 1 in 6 adults. Historically, the Hawaiian kingdom was among the most literate nations on Earth at 91%-95%. These comparisons matter. Today, we lag behind regions that have invested more in early learning, family literacy, and adult education. Investing in literacy breaks the cycle of poverty and improves educational outcomes. The greatest predictor of a child's academic success is the literacy level of their parents, so by strengthening adult literacy and addressing the gap in services for adults with low literacy, we strengthen Hawaii's future. Literacy is one of the most powerful equalizers. When someone learns to read, their identity shifts, they begin to see themselves not through limitation, but through possibility.

What can be done to improve literacy?

Improving literacy requires a full continuum of support and shift in mindset. First, we must invest early — ensuring every child grows up surrounded by books, stories and adults who read with them. Second, we must meet adults where they are — with flexible, respectful and judgment-free tutoring, English language and digital literacy programs that remove barriers rather than reinforce them. Bridging the digital divide is essential. For adults with low literacy, digital inclusion cannot occur without first addressing language and foundational reading skills. Our programs build these essential skills together — bridging the literacy and technology gap in culturally responsive and accessible ways. Strength-based programming and community-based leadership recognizes that learners are people who simply need access and opportunity. When we move to partnership, progress accelerates. Literacy grows not only in classrooms, but in homes, community centers and workplaces — anywhere people believe in one another enough to start.

What role does Hawai'i Literacy play in advancing the state's reading skills, and what can people do to help?

People can help by volunteering as tutors, donating school supplies, giving financially, or spreading the word that help exists — and that it's never too late to learn. If you can read this, you can help. Every learner, every tutor, every donor, every volunteer helps shift the tide. Hawai'i Literacy serves learners statewide, especially in communities where poverty and low literacy rates are highest. We fill a niche helping adults with the lowest levels of literacy gain skills and confidence, so they can access work and educational opportunities. One-on-one tutoring or English language and digital literacy classes ensure that individuals with language barriers have access to the same opportunities as everyone else. Our Bookmobiles bring the joy of reading to underserved communities and Family Literacy Libraries are welcoming spaces where keiki receive out-of-school support and adults connect with resources like workforce development opportunities. Some parent-education programs assume adults already read, but we begin by teaching reading, writing and English skills directly, so parents can engage fully in school and daily life. We fill a critical gap in access.

Of what Hawai'i Literacy accomplishment are you most proud?

I'm proudest of the moments no one else sees — the learner who reads aloud for the first time, the parent who says, "I didn't think I could do this, but now I can." Our volunteers, donors, board, staff and partners have supported more than 62,000 children and adults since 1971, yet it's the individual stories that stay with you. One learner who avoided reading in public now tutors others. A woman in our first digital literacy class now serves as an instructor and leader in that program. A man who gained skills and confidence got a job he didn't think was in reach. A child who grew up believing "no one from public housing wins school elections" did just that. These stories prove that literacy is more than reading and writing — it's about rewriting what people believe is possible. It's an honor to be part of someone's journey. Every story is different and reminds us that real change begins with courage and grows through connection.